

Ready to Read

An Early Literacy Newsletter

Renée Edwards, Early Literacy Services, Fairfax County Public Library



Volume 6, Issue 12

December 2013

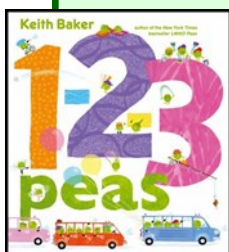
Renée Edwards' Favorite New Books

Renée Edwards is the Early Literacy Outreach Manager for Fairfax County Public Library, and she manages the library's Early Literacy Services Program. This program presents outreach storytimes to preschool children in child care centers or Head Start classrooms.

Each month, Early Literacy Services emails a list of new picture books to caregivers, teachers and parents. This book list is also available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library. In this newsletter, Renée shares some of her favorite new books highlighted in 2013.



Renée reads one of her favorite new books, *Let's Sing a Lullaby With the Brave Cowboy* by Jan Thomas, to the preschool children at Great Falls United Methodist Preschool.



1,2,3 Peas by Keith Baker

Busy little peas engage in their favorite activities as they introduce the numbers from one to 100. *Appropriate for ages 3-5*

Themes: Counting, Peas

Bear Has a Story to Tell by Philip Christian Stead
Bear, with the help of his animal friends, remembers the story he had hoped to tell before the onset of winter. *Appropriate for ages 4-5*

Themes: Hibernation, Winter

Because Your Mommy Loves You by Andrew Clements

When challenges arise during a hiking and camping trip, a mother finds ways to lovingly teach her child self-reliance. *Appropriate for ages 3-5*

Themes: Hiking and camping, Mother and child

Chloe by Peter McCarty

When Dad brings home a new television set, Chloe works hard to get her family to focus on having family time instead of watching it. *Appropriate for ages 4-5*

Themes: Families, Rabbits

Dolphin Baby by Nicola Davies

Following his mother, a baby dolphin learns about life under the sea, from catching his first fish to developing his own unique whistle. *Appropriate for ages 4-5*

Theme: Dolphins

Exclamation Mark by Amy Krouse Rosenthal

A punctuation mark feels bad that he does not fit in with the others. *Appropriate for ages 4-5*

Themes: Punctuation, Individuality



Faster! Faster! by Leslie Patricelli

A young girl finds out how fast daddy can go. *Appropriate for ages birth-5*

Themes: Speed, Imagination

Renee's Reading Tip



Read aloud non-fiction books. These books communicate facts about the real world and help children develop strong vocabularies and background knowledge.

(“Favorite New Books” continued on page 2)

("Favorite New Books" continued from page 1)

Gem by Holly Hobbie

Follow the journey of a toad in its natural habitat, from early springtime mud to the lily pads of summer. *Appropriate for ages 2-5*

Themes: Toads, Habitat, Stories Without Words

Renee's Reading Tip



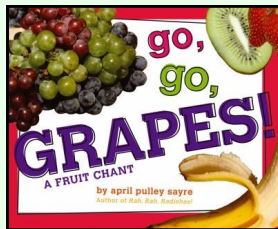
Talk to children about what they are hearing in a story. This teaches them unfamiliar words or concepts and leads to good reading comprehension.

Go, Go, Grapes! by April Pulley Sayre

This book celebrates the joys of healthy eating and invites youngsters on a rhyming photograph tour of a market filled with delicious fruits.

Appropriate for ages 2-5

Theme: Fruits



Good News, Bad News by Jeff Mack

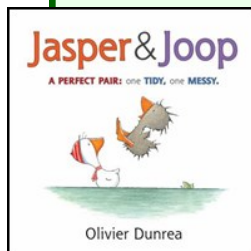
While on a picnic, Bunny and Mouse see everything that happens to them from opposite points of view – Bunny sees only the good, while Mouse sees only the bad. *Appropriate for ages 2-5*

Themes: Optimism, Pessimism

Happy by Mies van Hout

Fish show different emotions, ranging from curious to shy to confused. *Appropriate for ages 2-5*

Theme: Emotions



Jasper & Joop by Olivier Dunrea

Jasper is a small white gosling who likes to be tidy, and his friend Joop is a small gray gosling who likes to be messy. *Appropriate for ages 2-5*

Themes: Friendship, Geese

Mice by Rose Fyleman

Simple, rhyming text celebrates what is nice about mice. *Appropriate for ages 2-5*

Themes: Mice, Cats

Seababy: A Little Otter Returns Home by Ellen Levine

A baby sea otter, separated from his mother by a storm, is rescued by a human who takes him to the Monterey Bay Aquarium to recover and learn how to take care of himself. *Appropriate for ages 4-5*

Themes: Sea Otter, Baby animals, Wildlife Rescue

The Shape of Things by Dayle Ann Dodds

Introduces the concept that shapes make up the world around us. *Appropriate for ages 4-5*

Themes: Geometry, Shapes

Square Cat by Elizabeth Schoonmaker

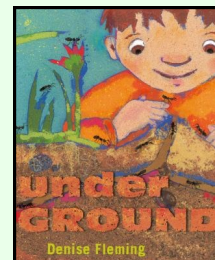
Eulah the cat is square and she longs to be round like other cats. Her friends show her the benefits of her shape. *Appropriate for ages 4-5*

Themes: Individuality, Self-Acceptance, Shapes

Underground by Denise Fleming

Pulp paintings and rhyming text spotlight the underground world of burrowing, tunneling and digging animals. *Appropriate for birth-5*

Theme: Earth



Zoom, Rocket, Zoom! by Margaret Mayo

Rhythmic text depicts astronauts exploring outer space. *Appropriate for ages 4-5*

Themes: Astronauts, Space Vehicles

Renee's Reading Tip



It is important children understand the stories you read aloud. One way to check for understanding is to ask questions as you read.